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AGAWAM

Advertiser News

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20 PAGES

Photo by

By Mike Lydick
Turley Publications
Correspondent

The two biggest drivers of a projected 5-percent increase in the school budget for fiscal year 2015 are new technology requirements and rising enrollment at the elementary level.

Superintendent William Sapelli's preliminary budget request totals \$40,103,919 – an increase of just more than \$2 million from the current \$38,080,847 budget. A "level-service" budget, it maintains the 2013-14 school-year services for the 2014-15 school year.

The school committee's budget/finance subcommittee and a city coun-

"The budget I've proposed will assist us in offering quality education to all students because it keeps our numbers where they belong so students can learn."

Superintendent William Sapelli

cil subcommittee got their first look at the budget when Sapelli presented it during a February budget workshop. The superintendent is requesting five new teaching positions – one each at three of the four elementary schools, an additional Reading Recovery program teacher at the Granger Elementary School, and an additional special education teacher.

Class sizes increasing

Sapelli said the additional teachers, as well as a paraprofessional for the special education teacher, are necessary because more children have enrolled in the district than had been projected. He said adding teachers will maintain class sizes at an "appropriate" level – 20

Please see BUDGET, page 6

SENIOR SWEETHEARTS



Turley Publications photo
by Kimberly Hatch

Walt and Rusty Grouten, of East Granby, Conn., prance and romance at the Senior Citizens Valentine Dinner Dance held at the Agawam Senior Center last Friday, Feb. 21. For more photos, please see page 10.

Capital improvement funds requested for new preschool center

By Mike Lydick
Turley Publications
Correspondent

In addition to a proposed budget of more than \$40 million for FY'15, Superintendent of Schools William Sapelli is also requesting more than \$5 million for three capital improvement projects that would be funded outside of the school budget.

A new 30,000-square-foot Early Childhood Center (ECC) to replace the current facility on Perry Lane is projected to cost \$5.1 million. The estimated cost for new intercom systems at two elementary schools – one at Robinson Park and one at Phelps – is nearly \$48,000.

If the projects are approved by the city council, bonds would finance a new ECC and replacement intercom systems. Projects that cost at least \$20,000 and have a life expectancy of 10 years are eligible for capital improvement financing. Sapelli said a new ECC is a "top priority" for the district.

"The current facility is too small. Overcrowding is now such a problem that we have to use two classrooms at the Clark school," he said.

Demand for preschool increasing

Robin Fernandes, ECC director for the past six years, said the district doesn't have space in

See PRESCHOOL, page 6

Marijuana siting issue moves ahead slowly

By Christopher Faile
Turley Publications
Correspondent

AGAWAM – No decision came of the Planning Board's most recent discussion of medical marijuana at its Feb. 20 meeting, but board members and staff do seem to have achieved consensus on the key issues involved.

In November 2012, state voters approved a law regulating the cultivation, possession and sale of marijuana for medicinal purposes. Last summer, the Planning Board put the whole issue of a possible dispensary in Agawam on hold, pending the ongoing work of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), which was preparing a model ordinance on the subject.

Deborah S. Dachos, director of planning and community development, said the PVPC has prepared

its model, and she is satisfied that it offers valuable guidance. There will have to be both a standard or "boilerplate" part and a "discretionary" part of an eventual Agawam ordinance, Dachos said. The boilerplate of the PVPC model is already "used across the region," she added.

But, "the discretionary part is where they [marijuana dispensaries] would go, and whether they would be allowed by right or by special permit," Dachos said. In Chicopee, for example, the PVPC ordinance has been adopted and the discretionary questions have been resolved; dispensaries will be allowed only in industrial zones, and will be allowed there only by special permit.

See MARIJUANA, page 6



Council to reconsider union contracts

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Correspondent

AGAWAM – A snowstorm postponed the Agawam City Council's Feb. 18 meeting, delaying the major issue of whether or not contracts for seven different unions will be reconsidered.

The contracts will be up for discussion at the council's next regu-

larly-scheduled meeting on March 3 at 7 p.m. Mayor Richard Cohen is supporting a request from seven different unions: the Agawam Police Supervisors Association, Agawam Clerical Employee's Association, Agawam Department of Public Works Employee's Association, Agawam Police Patrolman's Association, Agawam Building Maintenance Association, Agawam Administrative Unions, and

the AFL-CIO Local 1973 Firefighters' Association, to have their new contracts re-considered.

The city council effectively turned down funding the new contracts when they were deadlocked in a 5-5 vote for the contracts and the subsequent fund transfers to the appropriate salary accounts. Cohen has continued to express disappointment with the decision.

Please see COUNCIL, page 9

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Upcoming fundraiser to benefit EvvGirl Foundation

Second Wind Yoga, located at 327 Walnut St. Ext., Agawam, will host a Yoga fundraiser Saturday, March 22, at 11 a.m. Donations from the event will benefit the EvvGirl NICU Project.

Evan Bard, a graduate of Agawam High School, was a Curry College nursing student and cheerleader when she was killed in a drunk driving incident just two weeks shy of her 21st birthday. Her family has made it their mission to continue her legacy of kindness and love through the formation of the EvvGirl Foundation. Evan's dad is scheduled to speak at the Yoga class at 12:15 p.m.

For more information, call Second Wind Yoga at 363-2326.

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Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

WHERE IS IT?

Each week *Agawam Advertiser News* will feature a photo of a local building, item, sign, place or landmark and ask readers to pick their brains to figure out where it is or even what it is. Check here each week to test your knowledge of the area where we live and work. The photo will be from either Agawam or Feeding Hills, but we'll always give you a hint or two.

The answer to this week's "Where is it?" will run in next week's edition along with the name of the first person to submit a correct answer and a new trivia photo for you to consider.

E-mail answers or future Where Is It? suggestions to editor Jennifer Wroblewski at jwroblewski@turley.com.



Turley Publications photo by Kimberly Hatch

This working stiff is outstanding in his field. Tell us, do you know where he's located?



Last week's photo: A mailbox on Valentine Terrace.

Restaurants, sponsors sought for 'Taste of the Valley'

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The Rotary Club of West Springfield will present "West Side's Taste of the Valley," an annual weekend-long gathering of local restaurants on the Park Street Town Common, June 12-15. Chicopee Savings Bank will be the title sponsor of the event.

The Taste is expected to attract visitors from all over the Pioneer Valley who come to sample various dishes from a variety of restaurants as well as family-friendly entertainment, con-

certs on two stages, rides and games for children and teens, a petting zoo and the Saturday Cruise, a classic car show scheduled for Saturday, June 14, from 1-5 p.m. The Taste of the Valley 5K Run will take place Sunday, June 15, at 10 a.m.

Rotary is currently seeking interested restaurants and sponsors for the Taste. For more information, email organizers at info@westsidetaste.com and visit www.westsidetaste.com.

LOANS SPOKEN HERE



In Spanish or English.

Harry Montalvo, Community Development Specialist, has joined the ESB Lending Team. Harry can assist business start-ups and existing small businesses with SBA loans, and offer help developing business plans and pro-forma financials to speed the loan process.

He also offers special loan programs for first time homebuyers, and will help them to understand the home buying process, from application to closing. Help with other consumer loans is also available.

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Yes he can: Eagle Scout hopeful continues successful food drive



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Eagle Scout hopeful Matthew Christian, 17, takes a food donation last Saturday morning at First Baptist Church from fellow Boy Scout Jason Breton, 11. Christian is leading his fellow scouts in a food drive to earn the Eagle rank.

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM — After more than 10 years of scouting, Matthew Christian, 17, is getting set to become his family's first Eagle Scout.

Christian is working on completing the finishing touches of a scout-led month-long food drive to help fill the shelves of the Parish Cupboard, a West Springfield food pantry.

Christian and his scout pack, Troop 185 in Agawam, are continuing to collect food donations through the end of this weekend. Anyone wishing to donate food toward the drive can contact Christian and he will come pick up the donations.

Last Saturday morning, he held one of the culminating events of his food drive when he and a few other scouts gathered outside First Baptist Church to take donations in person. As a part of his Eagle Scout project, Christian is required to lead his scouts in executing a community-service project.

"I had them do a lot of work passing out flyers throughout town and spreading the word about the food drive," said Christian. "Here today, they are helping me load food into the van and bring in donations."

Christian chose to do the food drive for his Eagle Scout project because he wanted to help the Parish Cupboard at a time when they really need the donations.

"Right now, their shelves are getting near empty," he said. "They are going through a really tough time with donations. It is very slow this time of year. I really want to help them fill the shelves."

He has collected more than 100 food items

to send to the pantry. He says 25 percent of the Parish Cupboard's clients are from Agawam.

Although Christian will submit his application for Eagle Scout on March 3, that does not mean he will stop collecting donations, and he encourages residents to call him at (413) 789-0396 to coordinate a convenient time for pick up.

Christian says his application will be heard by the Eagle Scout Board on March 11 in Springfield, and he is hopeful he will attain the Eagle rank at that meeting.

"It would mean a lot to me to become an Eagle Scout," said Christian. "It is a great accomplishment. It is also something that looks very good on a college application and a job resume."

Christian said he was encouraged to take up an extracurricular activity by his parents and chose scouting when he was seven years old. He has stuck with it ever since and has helped to grow Troop 185.

"I have had a really fun experience scouting the past few years," said Christian. "There was a time where our numbers got to about seven people. I started recruiting when I became the patrol leader and now we have about 30 kids in the troop."

Agawam has also been getting more Eagle Scouts named, with a couple of scouts reaching the rank in the past couple of years.

Christian is a senior at Agawam High School and has attained 31 merit badges during this time with the scouts. He enjoys white-water rafting and ziplining at scout camp and also takes Tae Kwon Do in his spare time.

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Boldyga touts transportation finance legislation

I wanted to bring you up to speed on recent goings-on at the State House. The House recently approved a \$12.7 billion Transportation Finance Legislation package, including \$300 million for local aid. I believe that the unanimous vote reaffirms our commitment to investing in local aid and transportation.

The legislation will assist Massachusetts' communities in paying for local transportation-related projects. This marks the eighth consecutive year that the House has either raised or level-funded Chapter 90. Historically, Chapter 90 funds have been fundamental to providing stability and prompting economic growth in Massachusetts. That growth starts at the local level, which is why the House has been a huge supporter of enabling our communities with this type of aid. The bill helps to repair our hometown roads and bridges, especially during these hard winter months when much of our infrastructure is compromised. Having the opportunity to help ease our commute, lessen damage to our vehicles and overall improve transportation infrastructure is very important. I've always strived to bring our tax dollars back to the district and will continue to do so.

During the nearly 12-hour session on Wednesday, Jan. 29, I was successful in securing an amendment to the Transportation Bond Bill. During the debate, I put forward an amendment that included \$500,000 for the repair and improvement of North Westfield Street in Agawam. The town of Agawam is tasked with maintaining North West-

field Street, but they will be able to apply for this additional funding to repair and improve the road. My office received quite a bit of input about the condition of this road. Unfortunately, due to winter weather conditions, the road is in need of paving and repairs and, in its current state, is not a very pleasant road to travel.

I'm happy that I was able to advocate for our district with the successful passage of this amendment. There are a lot of roads in our district that are in need of repair, and this is a small step in the right direction.

The legislation will also improve and modernize the state's infrastructure system through projects including:

- \$2.97 billion for statewide roadway and bridge projects;
- \$350 million in investments for Regional Transit Authority improvements;

The bill also includes \$50 million in grant monies for the 'complete streets' project, which supports investments that accommodate users including motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, and public transit. The bill is now slated to go over to the Senate, where it will need a favorable vote.

Thank you for allowing me to proudly serve as your representative. Please visit my office at Cooper's Commons, 159 Main St., Suite M, to discuss any concerns.

**Nicholas A. Boldyga
State Representative**

Rabies clinic scheduled for March 15

The town of Agawam rabies and micro-chipping clinic will be held Saturday, March 15, from 10 a.m. to noon at Dave's Soda and Pet City, located at 151 Springfield St., Agawam.

The price of a rabies vaccine is \$12. The microchip is \$20 and includes the registration of the chip. Dog licenses for

2014 will also be issued. Dogs must be leashed and cats must be secured in a carrier.

Owners of pets eligible for a three-year vaccine must bring the previous year's certificate. For more information or assistance, call Allison Strong, Agawam Animal Control, at 726-9754.

Comedy fundraiser to benefit Agawam Lions

The Knights of Columbus, located at 460 Granby Road, Chicopee, will host a comedy fundraiser Saturday, March 1, at 7 p.m., with proceeds to benefit the Agawam Lions Club. Featured performers for the event are Jody Sloane, Tom Hayes and Steve Guilmette.

Tickets, which are \$20 per person, may be purchased at Bob's Barber Shop, 13

Maple St., Agawam, and Southgate Liquors on Suffield Street in Agawam or by calling Shawn Disley at (413) 687-0268 or Dick Lanier at (413) 335-5434.

Doors open at 6 p.m. There will be a cash bar, raffles, light music and the performance will include mild adult themes.

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Opinion

The challenges that seniors face

For some senior citizens, dealing with the constantly changing modern world is confusing. Seniors may have done things in a certain way for many years. Then the town (usually because of the state) comes in and changes things (they fix what's not broke). To the senior the changes make no sense and trying to get the town or state to put things back the way they were is impossible. This is very frustrating, not only for seniors, but for middle-agers as well.

It's also tough when you were raised with one set of values and now find you are surrounded by people who don't understand your way of thinking-- even look down on you, maybe get offended by your plain speaking.

Often younger people, while trying to be helpful, tend to be condescending to seniors-- "there, there dearie, you sit down and take it easy."

Sometimes the younger crowd doesn't listen either. Of course, young people have never listened, but listening to others has become a dying art. Most people want to hear themselves talk, to expound upon their ideas-- so few listen. Many seniors just want someone to listen to their problems and take them seriously-- even if they might sound a little confused.

Things are doubly hard if you are a senior who has a hearing problem or can't see or both. You can't hear what's going on so you have a hard time understanding what's happening. No one wants to take the time to explain it to you, or if they do, the explanation is too rushed and accompanied by the rolling of the eyes.

Imagine trying to apply for government assistance over the phone when you can't hear what's being said, and they can't quite understand you or your way of thinking. Maybe all you want is someone to help you do some chores-- but maybe you don't qualify for assistance.

These days there is a trend to put seniors in senior housing. On the other hand this makes it easier for seniors to get the help they need. They are less isolated, there are more events going on and more services to



take advantage of. However, many seniors don't want to leave their homes. They probably built their homes, raised their families in them, are comfortable there, and have items that they can't take into senior housing. If you're an old fellow who likes to tinker with engines or old cars-- you can't do that in senior housing. Or if you like to work on wood projects-- can't do that. Or if you have an antique gun or a tool collection-- you can't bring them. Or if you have more than one pet-- you can't bring too many

with you. You often have to leave many of your comforting and prized possessions behind. Many senior housing places are nice but they lack the personality that one's own home has.

A good many of our seniors are just plain lonely. The younger family members have moved off to other places, work crazy hours, are focused on the children-- so our seniors are left on their own. We know there are a lot of agencies and services out there to help them-- but it's not easy to apply for them,

many times seniors get overwhelmed by the paperwork or are turned down because they aren't poor enough.

We also know that many younger people are busy with work and family, but we suggest they keep an eye out on their elderly neighbors. Just stop in and have a coffee-- don't talk, just listen. They often have cool stories to tell-- certainly the veterans do. You would be surprised by how much good listening can do to soothe another's lonely soul.

AGAWAM

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Letter to the Editor

Emergency response to be commended

To the editor:

On Feb. 19, I had to call 911 for help with my husband, Paul. The ambulance responded very quickly. The EMT's, Bob Lafrance and Mike Defilipi, pro-

vided excellent care to him.

I want the people in town to know what excellent service our 911 team provides when we need them.

I will always be thankful to the Agawam 911 team for past help and the present. It always has been excellent.

Elaine Bowler
Feeding Hills



2014 Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy combined together in a special issue four weeks out from a primary or general election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details 5-6 weeks before the election. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy after that special election coverage issue. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our Advertising Representative at John Baskin at 786-7747 or jbaskin@turley.com

turley.com. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per candidate during the election season. They may be sent to aan@turley.com. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

As a hometown newspaper, state, county and federal candidates in con-

tested races who reside privately in our main coverage town(s) are offered one staff written feature story at the time of their official announcement appearing at least two months before the election date. However, these same hometown candidates aren't allowed to submit a separate candidate statement or listing in our special election edition. If a state or federal candidate living in our direct coverage town(s) is running in an uncontested race, no feature story interview will be granted. That information will be included in the general story that runs the week before the election. That story contains general information, including the names of all the candidates who will appear on the ballots and polling information.

Letters to the Editor must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or e-mail aan@turley.com.

The International Herb Association announces Herb of the Year

Each year since 1995, the International Herb Association has named an "Herb of the Year." This year the distinction goes to the Artemesias (Artemesia spp.). To qualify for the award, an herb must shine in at least two of the three following categories: medicinal, culinary or decorative. Read on to learn how Artemesias can decorate your home, flavor your food and beverage, and maybe even cure your ills!

Artemesia ludoviciana "Silver King" and I go way back. This was one of the first plants I grew in my garden of everlasting flowers in the late 1980s. Each summer I would harvest the soft, silvery branches, dry them in my parent's attic and twist them into wreaths. Silver King spreads by underground runners, and therefore can become a huge patch in no time. For the largest, most usable branches, divide often. Grow in full sun in well-drained, alkaline soil.

Later on in my craft show career I'd add another member of this large plant family to my garden. Sweet Annie (Artemesia annua) was also used to make the wreaths and swags that I sold. It could grow to be tremendously tall, and wide-topping of at six feet or so with great side branches for cutting. The foliage has a camphor-like scent that folks either love or hate. My goal was to pick the branches before the tiny yellow flowers opened, otherwise the pollen from this plant was unbearable. Separating dried branches often left me in a cloud of yellow. Sweet Annie self-sows readily, and in Kentucky is considered to be an invasive plant.

Another herb that belongs to this diverse group is French Tarragon (Artemesia dracunculus 'Sativa'). Some folks love it, but the taste it imparts a bitter flavor by my account.



ROBERTA MCQUAID
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS
COLUMNIST

soil. I did find it interesting to learn that this particular plant is not a good companion to others growing nearby - a substance in its leaves reportedly stunts their growth.

The Herb Society of America has a great fact sheet on this year's award-winner. For more information on Artemesias, consult their publication at www.herbsociety.org.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 24 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food, as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to dfarmr@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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Arts

ACAA to host 'Scratchboard Workshop'

The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans (ACAA) will host a Scratchboard Workshop Friday, March 21, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St.

A non-refundable fee for the workshop is \$27 per person and is required

by March 13. Supplies are included in the fee. Checks should be made payable to ACAA.

Pre-registration is required by contacting Gloria McClellan at 786-2873 to reserve a seat.

'Culture and Cocktails' event explores the art of deception

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Museums invites visitors to explore the world of art forgers and the science used to reveal their deceptions at the next "Culture and Cocktails" program of the season. The event takes place Thursday, March 6, from 5-8 p.m. at the Michele and Donald D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts.

The evening's theme is "Intent to Deceive," and is inspired by the groundbreaking exhibit of the same name currently on view at the D'Amour MFA. Attendees can enjoy a talk on art crime by FBI Special Agent Ian Smythe while also taking part in forensic science challenges led by museum educators. The evening will also include music and complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar by Elegant Affairs. Visitors are also able to tour related exhibits at the D'Amour

Museum, including "The Real Deal: Art of Authenticity." There is an additional \$5 special exhibit fee to view the "Intent to Deceive" exhibit.

"Culture and Cocktails" events take place on the first Thursday of most months, and are open to ages 21 and up. Admission is free for members of the Springfield Museums and \$5 for non-members. Both museum members and non-members are encouraged to make advance reservations through www.springfieldmuseums.org or by phone at (413) 263-6800, ext. 266.

The Springfield Museums are located on the Quadrangle at 21 Edwards St. in downtown Springfield. Free, secure onsite parking is available. For more information, call (413) 263-6800, ext. 379.

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You are not alone.

School budget deliberations off to 'good' start

BUDGET, from page 1

to 25 students – in the elementary schools so teachers can deliver the instruction students need. Without the new teachers, classes with 23 or 24 students will become even larger.

"There is a bona fide need. We have no choice – we need these positions. It comes down to sheer numbers," Sapelli said. "The budget I've proposed will assist us in offering quality education to all students because it keeps our numbers where they belong so students can learn."

Sapelli explained that he used \$51,237 (step 6 on the salary level) as the average teacher salary to calculate the cost of adding the positions. Step 6 is the midway point of the 13-step salary schedule.

Collective bargaining agreements among the various unions that represent the district's 600 staff are another reason for the budget increase. Salaries account for nearly 80 percent of the budget. Sapelli said the annual negotiated contractual salaries for school staff are slated to rise by 1.5 percent – what he termed as basically a cost-of-living increase – during the next budget year.

A 'fiscally responsible' budget

"We've made cuts, such as in supply accounts, to offset the increases. We've tried to be fiscally responsible where we can, not just ask for more. This is not a wish list – it's what we need to continue to function in the successful manner that we have to offer a quality education," Sapelli said.

The district is also facing costs associated with several unfunded state mandates. One of those looming on the horizon is a new standardized assessment program state education officials are planning as a replacement for the MCAS. Known as the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), it is currently being pilot-tested in Agawam schools and statewide. If implemented as proposed, PARCC will require all students to take the exam using an electronic device instead of traditional paper and pencil.

"We have to budget for this technology," said Sapelli.

He said the district needs to plan to pro-

vide iPads or laptop computers for Agawam's nearly 4,000 students.

"In addition, we need a technological infrastructure to support these devices that has the capacity to handle all students using the devices at the same time," he added.

Sapelli is also requesting money to build a new Early Childhood Center (ECC) and to replace intercom systems at two elementary schools. They would be funded as capital improvement projects.

'A long way to go'

Anthony Bonavita, who chairs the school committee budget/finance subcommittee, said although the preliminary budget appears to meet the needs of students, there is still a long way to go with hours of work and meetings.

"Our analysis never stops until final passage. We have a good start, but we are by no means finished," he said.

One factor still unknown is the amount of state aid.

"It's difficult to get an exact number from the state this early on," said Bonavita.

His goal is to have the school committee present a budget to the city council that benefits children. Bonavita hopes to create a "smooth" budget process by including the council in preliminary budget discussions.

"The committee will answer questions and be ready to defend our budget – if necessary – as time goes on," he said.

Bonavita said he wants to work "cohesively" with other school committee members, city councilors and the mayor on the budget.

"While we each have certain independent duties, ultimately we all have to work together to achieve what is best for the children," he said.

Another preliminary budget workshop is set for Tuesday, March 4, at 5 p.m. in the junior high school library. The final version of the FY '15 school budget will be reviewed by the two subcommittees on Tuesday, April 1, at 6 p.m. The formal public hearing on the budget is Tuesday, April 29, at 6:30 p.m. Those two meetings will be in the Doering Middle School auditorium.

He said the district needs to plan to pro-



Hearing Test Set for Senior Citizens

Announcement-
Free electronic hearing tests will be given from Monday-Friday 9am – 5pm at Avada Hearing Care Centers at 9 locations in Western Mass. Call to find the location nearest to you. The test has been arranged for anyone who suspects they are not hearing clearly. People who usually say they can hear but have trouble with understanding words are encouraged to come in for the tests. The testing includes newly-developed tests that determine your ability to hear speech in noisy environments. Everyone, especially those over 55 who have trouble hearing words clearly, should have a test annually. Demonstrations of the latest devices to improve clarity of speech will be available, on the spot, after the tests. You can HEAR for yourself if the latest methods of correction will help you understand words better.

Call for your Appointment

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Lioness Club to host Mohegan Sun trip

The Agawam Lioness Club will host a trip to Mohegan Sun on Sunday, March 9. Anyone interested in going is asked to be at the Agawam High School parking lot at noon. The bus will depart at 12:30 p.m., or sooner if everyone is present. The bus will arrive back at AHS at 8:15 p.m.

The cost is \$30 per person, which includes bus driver's tip, a \$15 food voucher and a \$15 free bet voucher. Proceeds from this trip will be used for the various charities the Agawam Lioness Club supports. The public is invited. Early reservations are encouraged, as seats are limited.

For reservations, call Pat at 786-1782 or Rose at 786-5134.

Capital improvement funds requested for new preschool center

PRESCHOOL, from page 1

other facilities to support preschool programs, particularly as demand to educate preschool children identified with special education needs continues to increase.

"Our students continue to receive a quality preschool program, but we have had to use space in multiple ways – and very creatively – to accommodate the specialized instruction they require," said Fernandes, a member of a 15-member committee reviewing the needs of a new ECC.

While she and her staff "will always do our best with current conditions and space," Fernandes said a new facility would not only provide larger classrooms than the current ECC, but it also would create more staff space. Staff activities such as parent/teacher meetings, faculty meetings, and professional development now take place in classrooms or hallways.

"I envision common space that could be used for community workshops and events open to the community that we do not currently have the space to accommodate," she added.

Fernandes oversees a staff of 49 that includes teachers, paraprofessionals and roving service providers (a speech/language therapist, occupational therapists, and physical therapists). Current enrollment is 159 students ages three to five – nearly 30 more than when Fernandes became director.

Temporary location outlived usefulness

According to Sapelli, the one-story building housing the ECC was designed to be a temporary location when the ECC opened 20 years ago. Plans called for relocating the ECC to the current high school. That plan had to be scrapped when the state rejected Agawam's third high school proposal late last year. A new ECC

is a "dire" need, said Sapelli. He said the town must fund 100 percent of the cost for a new ECC since the state only provides financial assistance for K-12 schools, not preschool facilities. The location for a new ECC has not been determined.

"We are looking at sites on school grounds to cut back on the expense," Sapelli said.

He estimates construction would take about two years.

Sapelli said funding a new ECC has been "in and out" of the budget for the past several years.

"We can't put this off any longer. The facility has outlasted its useful life," he said.

Replacing antiquated intercom systems

The intercom systems at Robinson Park and Phelps schools have also reached the end of their useful lives. Sapelli said the 30-year-old systems are "antiquated" and parts are no longer available. Communication from the office to all classrooms in the event of an emergency also makes replacing the intercom systems a safety issue.

At Phelps, 90 percent of the classroom intercoms either do not work at all or experience static. At Robinson Park, there are sporadic failures when communicating between the office and classrooms. Some classrooms are unable to hear pages or intercom calls from the office. In other Robinson Park classrooms, the office cannot hear intercom calls from teachers.

According to Sapelli, problems at both schools are due to the age of the intercom systems, and problems will continue to worsen until the systems fail completely. A new system at Robinson Park is estimated to cost \$22,531. The Phelps replacement cost is slightly more, estimated at \$25,434, because the school is two stories.

Marijuana siting issue moves ahead slowly

MARIJUANA, from page 1

Will Reichelt, a municipal attorney, was also present at the Feb. 20 meeting. He made the observation that the state Department of Public Health recommends that such facilities be kept at least 500 feet away from schools.

Board member Violet Baldwin said, "I think they [PVPC] did a great job on this" and indicated that she wants to go "the way Chicopee is going."

There was some half-joking about the possibility of a "special marijuana district," but talk soon focused on the difference between Industrial District A and Industrial District B. Restriction of marijuana dispensaries to Industrial A would seem to present the fewest problems.

Dachos said that Agawam's Industrial B zones allow for mixed uses, so authorizing medical marijuana facilities there could be trickier. "If you do have special permits, though [as distinct from location as a matter of right], then you can include Industrial B" as part of the range of possible sites, she

said.

There was some discussion of the fact that trafficking in marijuana remains a violation of federal law. As a consequence, bankers don't want to provide services to the vendors springing up in the various states that already have permissive laws on the books, and marijuana has developed as an all-cash business. As a result, board members expect that facilities are going to have a lot of cash on the premises, and there will be vehicles travelling to and from that will also have a lot of cash. It seems, then, that one of the unintended consequences of the new system will be the creation of targets of opportunity for thieves. Despite such considerations, as Reichelt put it, "We can't be more restrictive than the state."

After all this discussion no substantive vote was taken. Tricia O'Grady-Howard moved to table the issue and allow the staff to continue work on the ordinance. David Chase seconded that motion, and the board unanimously approved.

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Mother & Daughter Tea Social & Luncheon

Crestview Country Club in Agawam, MA

Sunday, March 30th from 1-4pm

All mothers, step-mothers, grandmothers, godmothers and aunts are invited to share in this delightful afternoon set aside to celebrate their relationships with the special girl(s) in their lives.

Ticket Cost: \$40 for each adult, \$40 for first child, \$30 for each additional child

Social Hour with Live Music performed by Rum and Steel

Luncheon & Dessert with DJ Music & Dancing

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Visit our website to print, complete & return a Registration Form:

<http://www.b4rem.com/mother-daughter-tea-social-and-luncheon/>

To have a Registration Form mailed to you, contact Marie @ 413.364.2323 or marie@b4rem.com.

A portion of this event's proceeds will be donated to the PTOs of the four Agawam Elementary Schools & the Roberta G. Doering School. This event is being organized & hosted by...



Families

Childhood anxiety topic of upcoming program

The Agawam Family and Community Program will host "Anxiety and Your Child," Monday, March 3 from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library.

The public is invited to come hear Behavioral Health Network's Alice Barber discuss the factors contributing to anxiety in children and identify tools that can help parents support their child.

Topics to be discussed will include why anxiety is on the rise among our children, how parents can tell if this is just a passing phase or a serious concern, and whether it is school, social or separation anxiety causing more and more children to exhibiting signs

of anxiety at home and school.

Barber is a licensed mental health counselor and therapist. Her specialties include early childhood mental health and trauma in early childhood. She serves as a supervisor and team leader at Child Guidance Clinic in Springfield, is an adjunct faculty member at Springfield College and also has a private practice.

Registration is not required.

For more information, contact Michelle Connery, outreach coordinator, at (413) 821-0597 or email mconnery@agawampublic-schools.org.

Fundraiser supports Eagle Scout candidate

Dan Robie, Agawam Troop 82 Eagle Scout candidate, is working on fundraising for his service project of building new team benches at St. John's Field in Agawam. In support of that effort, Dave's Soda and Pet City in Agawam will donate 2 percent of the proceeds from the purchase of anyone that brings a copy of this article (Code FOD-BOY82) to the store at 51 Springfield St. in Agawam,

Monetary and/or in-kind donations may be sent to "Boy Scout Troop 82," c/o Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., Agawam, MA 01001.

For more information, email: drobie11@comcast.net.

Annual St. Pat's dinner open to the public

The Agawam St. Patrick's Committee will hold its annual corned beef and cabbage dinner Wednesday, March 12, from 5-7 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, located at 945 Main St.

Tickets, which are \$12 per person, are available by contacting Nicole Bertera at (413) 535-4022 or Kerri O'Connor at (413) 575-3582. The event will also include a 50/50 and Chinese raffle. Featured guests will be Kelly Theriault, the 2014 Colleen, and court members Laurne Malone, Jordyn Conway, Kelly DeForge, Hannah McCluskey and Mary Katherine Reidy.

The community is invited to celebrate this Irish tradition of good food and fellowship.

Public Safety FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 72 EMS calls and the following emergency response calls for the week from Feb. 18 to Feb. 24.

On Feb. 18 at 7:15 p.m., the department responded to High Meadow Road to assist invalid.

On Feb. 19 at 11:18 a.m., the department responded to Elm Street for carbon monoxide incident.

On Feb. 19 at 12:05 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for good intent call, other.

On Feb. 19 at 4:26 p.m., the department responded to Rowley Street but was cancelled en route.

On Feb. 19 at 4:50 p.m., the department responded to Horsham Place for CO detector activation due to malfunction.

On Feb. 19 at 5:35 p.m., the department responded to Route 5 for motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

On Feb. 21 at 11:05 a.m., the department responded to Alfred Circle for public service assistance, other.

On Feb. 21 at 10:40 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for detector

activation, no fire – unintentional.

On Feb. 22 at 11:52 a.m., the department responded to Shoemaker Lane for unauthorized burning.

On Feb. 22 at 12:26 p.m., the department responded to Parkedge Drive for building fire.

On Feb. 22 at 2:41 p.m., the department responded to North West Street for CO detector activation due to malfunction.

On Feb. 22 at 2:48 p.m., the department responded to Leonard Street to assist invalid.

On Feb. 23 at 10:54 a.m., the department responded to Main Street for gasoline or other flammable liquid spill.

On Feb. 23 at 4:11 p.m., the department responded to Pheasant Hill Drive for building fire.

On Feb. 24 at 8:34 a.m., the department responded to Meadowbrook Road for public service.

On Feb. 24 at 2:04 p.m., the department responded to Hamilton Circle for water problem, other.

On Feb. 24 at 3:18 p.m., the department responded to Mulberry Street for public service assistance, other.

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 285 calls for service from Feb. 18 to Feb. 24. The department made two arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Friday, Feb. 21

Nicholas Gassnola, 32, of 80 Tall Pines, Hampden, was arrested on charges of two counts of larceny over \$250 by single scheme, and a warrant.

Saturday, Feb. 22

Kyle Pfeffer, 22, of 24 Dwight St., Apt. 9, Agawam, was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of alcohol and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

Area students featured at 'YAM' exhibit

For the month of March, the Agawam Public Library will celebrate Youth Art Month, or "YAM."

Students at the Agawam elementary, Roberta Doering, and Junior High schools will display their artwork.

An array of media will be represented and the public is invited to this free, open-to-the-public exhibit. Viewing is available during regular library hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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Fancy Nancy Favorite Doll Party -

Sun., June 22, 9 a.m.

Princess Tea Party - Sat., Sept. 6, 9 a.m.,

Sun., Sept. 7, 9 a.m., Sat. Sept. 20, 9 a.m. or 3 p.m.



BEER AND
WINE
TASTINGS

Fri., May 30

Fri., Oct. 3

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Seniors

Agawam Senior Center

Weekly calendar of events

Monday, March 3: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tag Sale; Free Hearing Test with Ear Masters; 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9:30 a.m., Painting Club, Line Dancing; 10 a.m., Fallon Insurance Meeting; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., Bingo; 4 p.m., Tap Class; 5 p.m., Zumba.

Tuesday, March 4: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tag Sale; 9 a.m., Exercise, Knitting, Sewing; 10 a.m., PACE; Noon, Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday and Monthly Birthdays Celebrated; 12:30 p.m., Ladies Billiards, Mah Jongg, Movie ("Won't Back Down"); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 2:30 p.m., Chorus Begins; 4:30 p.m., Yoga; 6 p.m., Beginner Line Dance; 6:30 p.m., Evening Sewing Class.

Wednesday, March 5: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tag Sale; 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 10 a.m., Friends Meeting; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Scrabble, Ballroom Lessons; 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers Chapter 2 Meeting; 6 p.m., Western Mass. Genealogy Meeting.

Thursday, March 6: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tag Sale; 8 a.m.-Noon, Tax Prep. (by appt.); 9 a.m., Exercise; 9:30 a.m., Quilting; 10 a.m., Line Dancing; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Pitch, Open Art Class; 2 p.m., Melody Band Practice; 6:30 p.m., Pitch.

Friday, March 7: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tag Sale; 9:15 a.m., Oil Painting; 10 a.m., Tai Chi; 11:15 a.m., Yoga; Noon, Canasta; 1 p.m., Pitch, Cribbage; 5 p.m., Zumba; 7 p.m., Agawam Cultural Council's "Dixie Land Stomp" (free at the Senior Center).

Lunch menu

Monday, March 3: Hamburg with gravy on mashed potatoes, sweet peas, apples.

Tuesday, March 4: Drunken pork, rice and beans, candied carrots, cake.

Wednesday, March 5: Egg salad cold plate with tomatoes and cucumbers, four-bean salad, peaches.

Thursday, March 6: Baked ham, baked sweet potatoes, peas, pineapple sauce, pudding.

Friday, March 7: Baked cod topped with lemon spinach sauce, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, pears.

Notes from the Music Room

By Darcy Davis

Some of the songs the Agawam Senior Center Chorus will be starting in March from "Annie Get Your Gun" will include "There's No Business Like Show Business," "I Got The Sun in the Morning," "Doing What Comes Naturally," "They Say It's Wonderful," "The Girl That I Marry," "I'm an Indian, Too" and "Anything You Can Do."

Some songs from other shows include "Let's Take an Old-Fashioned Walk," "You're Just in Love," "The Best Thing for You," "Count Your Blessings," "Be Careful, It's My Heart" and "Love, You Didn't Do Right By Me."

Just a reminder that the chorus sings after the Tuesday movie and anyone interested in giving it a try is welcome.

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Tag sale open to the public

The Agawam Senior Center, located at 954 Main St., will host a weeklong tag sale, Monday through Friday, March 3-7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. The public is invited to this annual event, where "someone's trash may be your treasure."

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Council to reconsider union contracts

COUNCIL, from page 1

"These contracts were negotiated with the unions in good faith and I am disappointed the council has decided not to fund them," he said.

Cohen did as he was instructed and returned to the negotiating table after the funding was voted down on Jan. 21. The unions refused to re-negotiate, leading Cohen to re-submit the contracts.

"The unions refused to come back to the table," he said. "I have no choice but to re-submit them for the council's consideration."

The major contention of the unions is that they are seeking the same incremental raises unions in the public schools sought. The raises are two percent during the current fiscal year, followed by 1.5 percent increases in FY '15 and FY '16.

Some city council members argued they cut funding from the town's salary reserve last June, making it possible for only a 1.5 percent raise during the current fiscal year. Cohen has argued that he has the funds currently to finance the two percent raises.

Attorney John Connor, who is representing four of the unions, contended the council is violating the law in a letter he wrote to Cohen.

"We feel the City Council made no assertion that it lacked sufficient funding to support the modest wage increases contained in these agreements," the letter stated. "The only telling comment during the discussion preceding the vote was by Chairman Christopher Johnson who appeared upset that the city council had told the Mayor prior to commencing negotiations not to exceed 1.5 percent in the first year. These comments by Mr. Johnson firmly establish that the city council seeks to negotiate directly with the town's unions in violation with Massachusetts General Law."

Councilor Gina Letellier was absent from the last meeting, but suggested at the Feb. 3 meeting that the council seek advice from an independent labor attorney. The council was scheduled to vote again on the contracts on Feb. 18, but the meeting was cancelled. The contracts were not referred to any sub-committees during the past month.

Also on the agenda for the March 3 meeting, the council will be asked to approve deficit spending for the snow and ice removal budget. The last few storms have sent the town over the \$456,000 originally budgeted for the year.

Play to Win, Win to Play!



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Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.
Registration required: 413-794-2255.

We encourage you to visit our sports, fitness and performance vendors during the event.

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Join us to meet the staff of Baystate Rehabilitation Care and Conca Sports and Fitness to learn strategies to maximize your game.

Baystate Rehabilitation Care

Love's in the air at senior Valentine Dance



Agawam Senior Center members enjoy a little "Boot Scootin' Boogie."



Tom and Susie McGraw celebrate.



John Reed spins his wife, Ruth.

The Agawam Senior Citizens Valentine Dinner Dance originally scheduled for Friday, Feb. 14, was cancelled and re-scheduled to last Friday, Feb. 21, at the Senior Center. Here are some of the sweethearts we captured on film.



Herb Foy spins his wife, Marge.



Rita Wood of Granby, Conn., dresses the part.

Turley Publications ph
Kimberly Hatch



Bob Tauscher a



Agawam Senior
and a dance w



Angela and F



and Tina Strempek enjoy the evening.



or Center Director Joan Linnehan (right) shares a laugh with her friend, Jess Bernier.



photos by
n
Richie Mitnick orchestrates for the dancers on his keyboard.



Frank Tjonahen do the tango.

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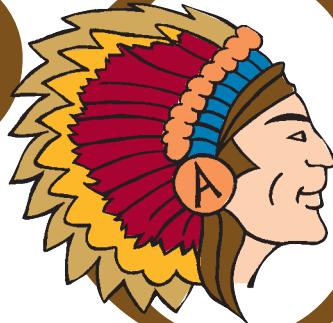
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SPORTS



Walles helps shut down Minnechaug

Colwell, Curran, Shea tally for Agawam



By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM — Just one year ago, Agawam had finally overcome the hump in Division 3A and won the state championship on top of beating their longtime rival South Hadley in the Western Massachusetts Championship game.

This year, Agawam has not slowed down and on the heels of two more wins to close out

the regular season, the Brownies have gone from a Division 3A title to the top seed in Division 3 entering the tournament this weekend.

The Brownies got a well-deserved quarterfinal bye in the six-team tournament and are scheduled to play on Saturday at 3 p.m. at Olympia Ice Center.

Their opponent is yet to be determined as of press time. They are scheduled to meet the winner of the Minnechaug-East Longmeadow quarterfinal matchup.

Please see HOCKEY, page 13

Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Cam Rivest tries to keep control of the puck.

Agawam skiers headed to State Championships

Scherpa takes overall crown

AGAWAM - The Agawam girls and boys ski team has completed their regular season races with five team members qualifying to compete in the State Championships being held at Wachusett Mountain.

On the girls side, sophomore Jillian Scherpa was the overall champion finishing the season as the League number 1 girl for a second straight season. Based on her ranking as the PVIAC girls champion, she was also selected to represent Team Massachusetts at the Eastern High School Championships which will be held at Attitash Mountain.

Sophomore Katie Martin finished her season in a tie for fourth overall in the league finishing five of her races in the league top 10.

Senior captain Jordyn Conway completed her high school skiing career with her strongest season ever finishing 15th in the league including her personal best of ninth in week 7 for the North division.

On the boys side, senior captain Mike Gonet finished his season in 11th place for the league, including four top 10 finishes while senior captain Mike Rossi finished his high school skiing career with his best season; Rossi finished the season with a ranking of 15th in the league.



Dustin, Lubarsky lead Brownies at state meet

By Nate Rosenthal
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

CAMBRIDGE — The 2013-2014 swimming season drew a close last week with the state championships that were held on Feb. 15-16 at the MIT Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center. Megan Dustin and Jared Lubarsky helped

their respective squads with some excellent performances.

Saturday featured the Division 1 and Division 2 girls at the all day event. The boys followed on Sunday with their respective meets.

Dustin scored in both of her swims for the Division 1 Lady Brownies. She was seventh in the

Please see SWIM, page 14

Kieran takes fourth at Class A Championships

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham & Monson Academy's Kieran Summers had a successful senior season of wrestling, and he has the hardware to prove it.

Kieran finished fourth in the 145-pound weight class at the Class A Championship Meet at Loomis Chaffee Feb. 8.

"I'm happy with how I wrestled," said Kieran, who received a medal for his fourth-place finish. "I lost my first match, but then came back and won my next three matches to reach the consolation final."

Kieran enjoyed a strong season for the Titans. Along with Sasha Oliinyk, he provided great leadership and helped set the tone for WMA Wrestling.

"We had some kids really step up this year," Kieran said. "Some of them are going to do really well at New Englands in years to



Submitted photo by WMA
WMA senior Kieran Summers placed fourth at the Class A Championship Meet in the 145-pound weight class.

come.

"I'm real happy with my season. I won some tough matches and it was a great team to be on."

Turley Publications submitted photos

Jillian Scherpa, Katie Martin and Mike Gonet are three of the five skiers that will represent Agawam in the MIAA state championships.

HOCKEY, from page 12

Both teams present a major challenge for the Brownies. Though East Longmeadow was not one of the top teams in the Berry Division this year, they played Agawam tough in two outings, both ties. The teams tied 6-6 in one game and 4-4 in the second. There will be no ties in the playoffs.

Minnechaug lost to Agawam twice, but played Agawam very tough last Friday night in the regular season finale for both teams.

With a playoff spot already secured for both teams as well as a Berry Division title for the Brownies, Agawam and Minnechaug played to prepare for the tournament as well as celebrate Senior Night for Agawam.

Both teams played scoreless hockey for two periods though both teams had their fair share of great opportunities to score.

Neither team was able to score until the third period when Agawam tallied three times and came away with a 3-1 victory.

In his final start before his first playoff game, Senior goalie Chris Walles picked up 17 saves and backed up a great defensive ef-

fort from his team.

John Colwell, Seamus Curran, and Joe Shea provided the three goals for the Brownies in the third period. Dominic Falvo provided the only goal for the Falcons, coming on assists from Nathan Champagne and Anthony Piteo.

For the second time this season, Agawam scored nine goals against West Springfield as they trounced the Terriers 9-2 last Thursday night. The victory over West Springfield capture the Berry Division title for the Brownies. The victory also helped Agawam lock up the first seed in the tournament over Westfield.

In the victory, eight different Brownies scored with Curran scoring two goals. Shea, Alex Abilantis, Zach Circosta, Eric Kierla, Mike Pfau, Cam Rivest and Billy Wysocki also scored goals. Brian Scoville had three assists.

If the Brownies win Saturday, they would advance to the sectional finals set for 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 6 at Olympia.



Turley Publications photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Above: Agawam's Joe Shea tries to keep his balance behind the Minnechaug goal.

Left: Agawam's Cam Rivest tries to dig the puck out of the side.

Ritter helps out Wentworth

BEVERLY - Wentworth men's volleyball freshman and Feeding Hills resident Colin Ritter came through for his team in three wins.

Ritter had 52 assists and 13 digs in a 3-2 win over Endicott on Saturday, Feb. 22.

He also had 33 assists in a 3-0 win over Regis on Thursday, Feb. 20.

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Brownies set to face Terriers in playoff opener

Set for rematch with West Side

By **Gregory A. Scibelli**

*Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent*

AGAWAM - A rivalry renews on Friday night when Agawam makes a short trip to their first playoff game of the season.

Normally, road trips are very long in the tournament, but Agawam drew the No. 7 seed and will face No. 2 West Springfield Friday at 7 p.m.

The Brownies finished their regular season with a record of 12-8. They are coming off a down game, but have had 11 days of rest and practice to prepare for their game against the Terriers.

In their regular season finale last Monday night, the Brownies were defeated by Longmeadow 78-47 on Senior Night at Agawam.

The Brownies simply could not get going fast enough and Longmeadow had too much offense in the middle of the game. The Lancer depth was also excellent as 12 different players managed to score points during the game.

Agawam was led by Tyler Desrosiers, who was played very well by the Lancers. Desrosiers scored 17 points, and while that is considered a big game for many other players, Desrosiers normally scores in the 20s or 30s.

Talon Brown, another strong shooter, was limited to just seven points.

Longmeadow had a huge first half where they scored 40 points and limited the Brownie offense to just 21 points to take a huge advantage going into the break. The Brownies

were able to score more during the second half, but the Lancers were also consistent on offense and kept pace as they picked up the 30-point margin of victory.

Agawam was very lucky as their schedule had very few snow postponements. While many teams scrambled to fit games in up until last Thursday night, the Brownies completed their regular season and began preparing for the tournament.

The Brownies lost their one meeting of the season against the Terriers, 73-65. The Brownies have shown an ability to compete with West Springfield, however. In the matchup, the Brownies did hold a major advantage at one point.

Agawam took a 27-12 lead early in the game before having their offense shut down in the second quarter. West Springfield then found their shooting touch and was able to move forward in the second half, taking the lead during the third quarter.

Agawam will need a big game from Desrosiers, who just recently committed to Division 2 Post University in Waterbury, Conn. Desrosiers has surpassed 1,500 career points and hopes to lead Agawam to a division title.

If the Brownies are able to beat West Springfield, they would play next week at American International College at a date and time to be determined. Follow the Turley Sports Facebook Page for tournament dates, times, and sites.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

Liebel, Basile Ortega advance to New Englands

Three others serve as alternates

By **Gregory A. Scibelli**

*Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent*

AGAWAM - Agawam advanced grapplers into the All-State Meet scheduled for this weekend at the Tsongas Center in Lowell.

Wrestlers who place in the top six at that meet will go on compete in the New England Championships the following weekend.

Last year, Agawam's Connor Liebel was the lone grappler who qualified to compete at New Englands.

This year, his brother Brennen will seek to accomplish the same feat. Brennen Liebel has allowed accomplished many things

this season, including winning several individual tournaments en route a big victory at 113 pounds at Western Mass. at Central High School two weeks ago.

At the state meet, Liebel came up a little short this year, losing in the consolation finals and placed fourth. According to the bracket released for the all-state meet, Liebel is scheduled to Matt Kelley from Foxboro in his opening match. Kelley is the second-place finisher from Division 3.

Liebel has now won two Western Mass. championships. He also captured 100 wins during the regular season in a match at home against Ludlow.

Also heading into the All-State meet is fellow Western Mass. champion Anthony

Please see WRESTLING, page 14

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Brownies draw top seed in Division 3

Will play first game Saturday

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD — The Agawam ice hockey team received the number one seed in the Western Massachusetts Division 1 Tournament as they had the best record in Western Mass. among Division 3 teams.

Seeds for the upcoming Division 3 and 3A tournaments were announced last Saturday morning at the Dante Club in West Springfield.

The Division 3 tournament will be just a six-team field while 3A will feature seven teams this year.

The addition of Agawam to Division 3 and the ability for Ludlow to reach the tournament in their last game of the season has added a round to the tournament after many years of just three or four teams reaching the tournament.

Agawam received the top seed with a 13-3-4 record for the regular season. They were the winners of the Berry Division, which is the league all six tournament teams play in.

Westfield received the number two seed. Both Westfield and Agawam will receive byes into the semifinals.

Longmeadow was seeded third, followed by East Longmeadow, Minnechaug and Ludlow.

Ludlow was scheduled to Longmeadow and Minnechaug and East Longmeadow were scheduled to face off in quarterfinal games on Tuesday.

Westfield will face the Ludlow-Longmeadow winner on Saturday at 1 p.m. at Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield. That will be followed by Agawam playing the East Longmeadow-Minnechaug winner at 3:30 p.m.

SPORTS CALENDAR

Sacred Heart signups for softball

AGAWAM - Sacred Heart Athletic Association offers softball leagues that can accommodate girls from grades 1-8.

The cost for instructional softball (grades 1-2) is \$75 and NEYSA (grades 3-8) will be \$100.

All registrations will be held at the Sacred Heart Religious Education Center at 1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, on the following days: Saturday, March 1 from 1 to 3 p.m.

We also provide the opportunity to register through the mail. Please visit our website, download the registration form and mail it directly to us! Deadline for mail in registrations is March 5.

ALL to hold spring signups March 1

AGAWAM - Agawam Little League registration for spring 2014 will be held on Saturday, March 1 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library.

Registration fees for the 2014 season will be: T-ball (4 years old) \$50; Instructional (5-6 years old) \$70; Minors (7-9 years old), AAA (9-12 years old) and Majors (10-12 years old) \$90; Seniors (13-16 years old) \$110.

For families with more than one child playing the first child is full price, second child is half price and any additional children will be \$20.

The Objective of Agawam Little League is to install the ideals of good sportsmanship, teamwork, physical well-being, discipline and respect for authority. We are in need of individuals in all capacities. We encourage all to attend this registration to learn more about the organization and ways that you may be able to assist.

Please go to www.agawamlittleleague.com for more information.

In-Town Soccer registration open until March 2

AGAWAM - Agawam Soccer Association is now accepting registration for the Spring 2014 In-Town Soccer season.

The semifinal winners will face off on Thursday, March 6 at 8:30 p.m. in the finals of the tournament.

In Division 3A, Greenfield received the top seed. Wahconah was seeded second, followed by Chicopee Comp, South Hadley, Chicopee, Belchertown, and Easthampton.

South Hadley received a berth in the tournament due to their very strong schedule and a 4-1-1 record against Division 3A teams. The Tigers remained in Division 3A, but their recent success led to them being moved to the Berry League, which consists of all Division 3 teams.

South Hadley hosted Chicopee Wednesday night, Belchertown is scheduled to play against Comp Thursday at 8 p.m. in another quarterfinal.

The semifinals are scheduled for Monday night at dates and times to be determined and the finals are March 6 at 5:30 p.m.

All games are being played at Olympia Ice Center. Tournament director Mike Shea says no games can be played at the Mass-Mutual Center until the MAC Basketball League has completed its tournament. The state semifinals can take place at the Mass-Mutual Center.

Some coaches at the meeting called for Shea to work to utilize other sites for tournament games. They argued teams that use Olympia as home ice hold an advantage.

Shea said he would look into options, but responded saying reserving ice is very difficult and there are few options available in Western Massachusetts while Eastern Mass. teams have several options.

Fitzpatrick Arena in Holyoke is also used in Western Mass., with Chicopee, Chicopee Comp, and South Hadley using the nearby arena as home ice.

Registrations will only be accepted online at www.agawamsoccer.org. Games will begin in April and end in June. All games will be played on the weekends.

Anyone that played in the fall of 2013 already has a username and password. Those that did not play in the fall of 2013 will need to click signup to create a username and password.

Cost for pre-K, age 3, is \$80 (child must be at least 3 years old by Sept. 1, 2013); pre-K, age 4, \$80 (child must be at least 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2013); kindergarten \$80 (child must be entering kindergarten in the fall of 2013); 1st grade thru 8th grade, \$90.

The registration period will close Sunday, March 2.

Fishing swap meet set for March 9

AGAWAM - A fishing swap meet will be held on Sunday, March 9 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Polish American Club, 139 Southwick St.

Buy, sell and trade new and used fishing and hunting gear (no guns).

The cost is a \$2 donation at the door. Kids 12 and under are free. No cost to park.

There will be raffle prizes.

Polish Club food confessions will be open with breakfast/lunch food and drinks.

Table space and boat spaces still available. If you would like to sell your items or boat, please call Dave Dussault at 413-427-0846.

For more information, go to getyourlinewet.com.

Baseball players wanted

A local baseball team is looking for 9, 10, and 11-year-olds looking to play in some of the best baseball in Western Massachusetts.

The team plays on weekends only. Can dual roster with local teams. Guaranteed national tournament. If interested, please call 1-413-887-8798.

SWIM, from page 12

200-yard freestyle with a time of 1 minute, 58.10 seconds and later in the meet went 5:12.34 in the 500-yard freestyle to place third. Mackenzie Gendron swam, the 200-yard Individual Medley and the 100-yard backstroke, placed 36th and 26th. In the diving competition, Monique Groux was 21st with a score of 140.70.

Taking first overall for the Division 1 girls was Westford with a total score of 300 points. They were followed by Lincoln-Sudbury at 211 and Beverly at 168. The top team from Western Mass was Westfield in fourth place with 131 points. Minnechaug was eighth with 106 and Hoosac Valley, ninth with 96. Rounding out the rest of the area teams were: Monument Mountain 14th; Chicopee 15th; Agawam 24th; Palmer 26th; West Springfield 29th; Chicopee Comp. 39th.

Colleen Humel of Chicopee was the winner in the 200-yard freestyle with a 1:53.67, edging Sarah Welch of Beverly by .10 seconds. She was also second in the 100-yard backstroke to Jenn Markkand of Westford, who broke the meet and state records with a time of 54.08. Humel's 56.13 also broke the meet record.

In the 200-yard individual medley, Markkand won with a 2:01.56 and broke both records in that event as well. Dorion McMenemy of Algonquin was a double winner in the 50-yard freestyle in 23.76, a meet record and in the 100-yard freestyle in 51.97. Astrid Swenson of Beverly went 55.41, a meet record in the 100-yard butterfly. It was Carolyn Soares of Masconomet in the 500-yard freestyle in 5:01.79 and Maddison Garber of Milford in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:03.63. That was also a meet record. Winning the diving was Meghan O'Brien of Concord-Carlisle with a score of 5:42.15. Westford won the 200-yard medley and 400-yard freestyle relays, while Lincoln-Sudbury took the 200-yard freestyle relay.

The Division 2 girls winner was Wayland with 331.5, well ahead of Weston at 234. Third was Northampton with 229 points. Longmeadow was fifth with 130.5. The rest of the Western Mass teams were: Amherst 14th; Easthampton 17th; Holyoke Catholic 20th; South Hadley 24th; East Longmeadow 33rd.

Erin Voss of Northampton and Jerrica Li of Longmeadow were double winners. Voss won the 200-yard freestyle in 1:49.48 and the 500-yard freestyle in 4:52.99. Li was first in the 200-yard individual medley in 2:03.35 and in the 100-yard freestyle in 50.59. Victoria Bryson of Weston won the 50-yard freestyle in 23.98 and Kylie Cronin of Marblehead broke the meet record in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 55.35. Marie Chamberlain of Nauset won the 100-yard backstroke in 54.02 and that was a both a meet and state record. Taking the 100-yard breaststroke was Molly Pierce of Wayland in 1:06.85. Mikaela Thompson of Weston was the diving winner with 483.10. Marblehead

won the 200-yard medley and 400-yard freestyle relays, while Westford was first in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

On Sunday, the boys took to the pool. St. John's Prep scored 400.5 points to lead the Division I field. Westford was next with 302.5 and Lincoln-Sudbury finished third with 196 points. Westfield was the top Western Mass team in ninth with 66.5 points. The other Western Mass teams were: Minnechaug 13th; Agawam 34th; Monument Mountain 38th; Chicopee Comp 39th; Palmer 40th.

Lubarsky scored with an 11th-place in the 200-yard freestyle, clocking in at 1:49.02. He also finished 18th in the 100-yard freestyle. Adam Ardolino was 17th in the diving at 236.75.

Tommy Normoyle of Minnechaug was the sole winner from Western Mass, as he took the 100-yard breaststroke in 58.40. A pair of Westford swimmers were double winners — Jason Jung and Brian Poon. Jung won the 200-yard freestyle in 1:40.58 and the 100-yard freestyle in 45.66, the latter being a meet record. Poon went 1:49.37 in the 200-yard Individual Medley and 4:32.29 in the 500-yard freestyle. Corben Miles of Acton-Boxborough broke the meet record in the 50-yard freestyle with a 21.12. It was Alexander Swanson of St. John's Prep with a 51.25 to win the 100-yard butterfly and later teammate Joseph Turk won the 100-yard backstroke in 50.98, Gabriel Bamforth of Cambridge won the diving with a 510.80. Westford won the two free relays, the 200-yard and 400-yard and in the 200-yard medley, it was St. John's Prep.

It was close in Division II as Weston beat Bishop Feehan 244-225. Amherst was third with 163. Longmeadow was tenth with 82.5 points. Rounding out the rest of the Western Mass teams were: East Longmeadow 14th; South Hadley 18th; Belchertown 23rd; Northampton 25th; Monson 27th; Taconic 27th.

The individual winners were: Grant Casey of Bishop Feehan in the 200-yard freestyle at 1:43.46; Alex Gallant of Apponequet in the 200-yard Individual Medley in 1:56.79; Sam Cekala of Weston in the 50-yard freestyle in 21.94; James Allen of Bromfield in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 51.87; Alessandro Rastelli in the 100-yard freestyle in 48.30; Casey again in the 500-yard freestyle in 4:40.81; Andre Kelly of Belmont in the 100-yard backstroke in 52.64; Christian Kinnon of Mystic Valley in the 100-yard breaststroke in 58.86. The diving winner was Reece Donohue of Hopkinton with a score of 447.15. Bishop Feehan was the winner in both the 200-yard medley relay and 400-yard freestyle relay, while Duxbury took the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Nate Rosenthal is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com.

WRESTLING, from page 13

Basile. Basile picked up his first individual sectional championship at 145 pounds two weeks ago at Central.

Last weekend, Basile had a strong showing and placed third at the state meet, defeating Davey Goo of Chelmsford in the consolation round.

As a result, Basile will be facing the third-place winner from Division 3, J.T. Taylor from Norton in his opening match.

Chris Ortega was another third-place finisher at the state meet. He defeated Jake Ahem from Chelmsford in the consolation finals. Ortega has a spot in the opening round of the all-state tournament and is scheduled to face Myles McNeil of Norton.

At the heavier weights, Agawam did place

three other wrestlers, though they currently serve as alternates. At 195 pounds, Nick Blais was able to place eighth at the state meet. The same was the fate for heavyweight Nick Hope. Hope had an excellent season for the Brownies and only figures to improve going into his senior year next year.

Placing seventh at 182 pounds was Fred Karl-Morin. Karl-Morin came back strong after missing part of the regular season with an injury to his league suffered during the football season.

Last year, Agawam qualified nine of their 14 wrestlers for the state tournament. The Brownies placed second in Western Mass. this season with Central sending the most grapplers to the state meet.

Mawaga Sporting Club 25th Lunker Trout Derby

AGAWAM - The Mawaga Sporting Club will host its 25th Lukner Trout Derby on Sunday, April 27, 377 Adams St.

This event is a great way to get outside for young and old alike. The club does a great job hosting this event and provides a well stocked pond, bait, breakfast, lunch, cash, door and raffle prizes.

Fishing is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with awards and raffles after 1 p.m. No license needed.

Ticket donation of \$15 per angler. Non angler guests are free.

Largest trout prize is \$500. Second place is \$100. There will also be a random size award of \$100. Caught tagged fish prize is also \$100.

For more info contact Dave Dussault or call the info line at 413-262-7401 and 413-265-0851.

Obituaries & Church News

DEATH NOTICES & SERVICES

Baszak, Steven C. Died Feb. 21, 2014 Funeral at a future date Agawam Funeral Home	Quick, Donna M. Died Feb. 22, 2014 Funeral Feb. 27, 2014 Sampson's Chapel of the Acres Funeral Home Springfield
Dion, Leonore F. Died Feb. 16, 2014 Funeral Feb. 22, 2014 Agawam Funeral Home	Serra, Arthur J. Died Feb. 22, 2014 Funeral Feb. 27, 2014 Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home Agawam
Forgue, Dolores, A. Died Feb. 20, 2014 Private Services Leete-Stevens Enfield Chapels	Wallberg, Mark J. Died Feb. 8, 2014 Memorial service March 1, 2014 Hope Community Church Feeding Hills
Glod, Stanley J. Died Feb. 13, 2014 Funeral Feb. 22, 2014 Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home Agawam	

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Legal Notices

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT January 22, 2014

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Public Library Conference Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on **Monday, March 10, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.** for all parties interested in the appeal of Dragon Paradise, who is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 180-7 of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances to allow for the creation of additional businesses located at the premises identified as 270 Main Street.

Doreen Prouty, Chairperson
Agawam Board of Appeals
2/20/27/14

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600

Docket No. HD14P0242EA
Estate of:

Julio C Didomenicantonio
Also Known As:
Julio Didomenicantonio

Date of Death:
October 6, 2013

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Jon Scuderi** of Naples FL
a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Jon Scuderi of Naples FL has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on

the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

2/27/14

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court

Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758

Docket No. HD14P0324EA

Estate of:
Joseph J Napolitan

Date of Death: 12/02/2013

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: **John Michael Disenza** of Longmeadow MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order of testacy and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

And also requesting that:

John Michael Disenza of Longmeadow MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Corporate Surety on the bond.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on 03/21/2014.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 21, 2014
Suzanne T Seguin
Register of Probate

2/27/14

Mark J. Wallberg

Mark John Wallberg, 55, of Feeding Hills, died Feb. 8, 2014. He was born to John Wallberg and Mildred (Wallberg) Merritt, Sept. 21, 1958, in Hibbing, Minn. Mark graduated from Lincoln High School of Thief River Falls, Minn., in 1976. He received a Bachelor of Science in mathematics from Stetson University in DeLand, Fla., in 1982. He was a member of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity. Mark was most recently a programmer/operator at WYZ Machine Company. He has also worked for Nutech Incorporated, Mazak Corporation, and Cogswell Manufacturing. He loved his job and took great pride in his work. Mark is survived by his parents, John G. and Marilyn Wallberg of Minnesota; Mildred Merritt of Florida; brother, Scott Wallberg of Minnesota; sister, Missy Gudal of Texas; half-brother, John Wallberg of Colorado; step-brother, Robert Merritt and step-sister, Michele Merritt. A celebration of Mark's life will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 1, at Hope Community Church, 152 S Westfield St., Feeding Hills.



Upcoming dinner to benefit 'Soldier On'

The Agawam United Methodist Church, located at 459 Mill St. in Feeding Hills, will sponsor its second initiative to help end veteran homelessness. A benefit dinner will be held Saturday, March 8, at 6 p.m. The menu will include homemade meatloaf, garlic mashed potatoes, peas, salad and a variety of desserts. All proceeds will benefit the Soldier On organization, www.wesoldieron.org.

Tickets, which are limited, may be reserved by calling Shaw at (413) 262-1726. Cost for adults and children over age 12 is \$10; seniors and children age 6 to 12, \$5; and free for children under 6. The public is invited to help make a difference for homeless veterans.

St. John's to host weekly Lenten conversations

St. John the Evangelist Church, located at 833 Main St., Agawam, will offer weekly Catholic coffee and conversations during Lent, which begins Wednesday, March 5. The public is invited to join in weekly faith formation discussions.

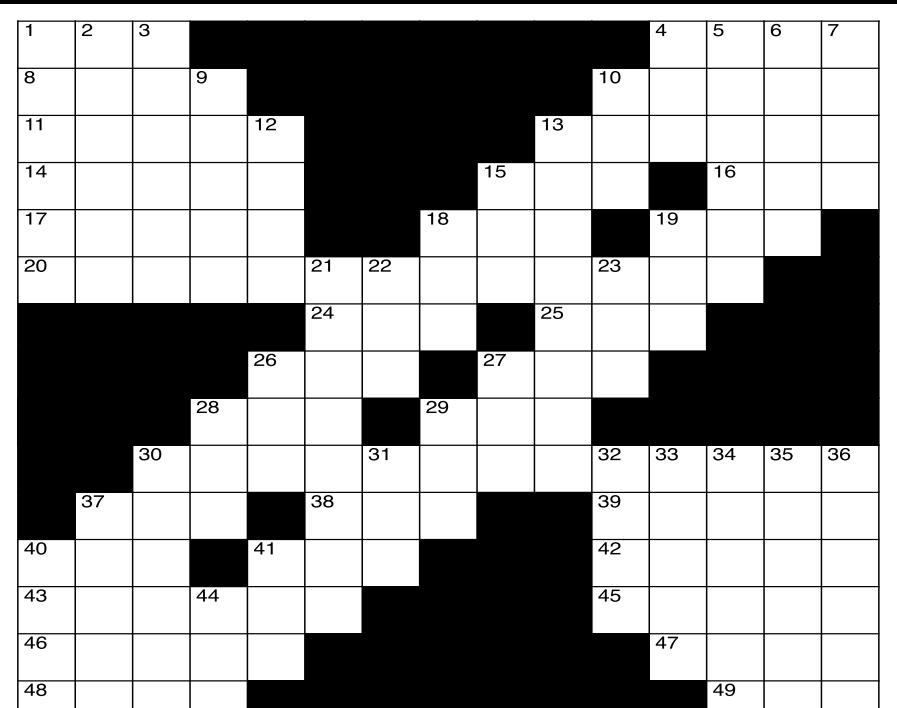
The first conversation of this series takes place Thursday, March 6, at 7 p.m. in the parish hall of the church. The topic is "Lent, Fasting, Prayer and Almsgiving."

For more information, email Sal Circosta at RE@stjohnagawam.org or call (413) 786-8105. This event is free and open to the public.

Lenten lunches at Church of the Good Shepherd

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Lenten lunches begin again for six Fridays, beginning March 7 at the Church of the Good Shepherd, located at 214 Elm St. Served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., take-out and delivery are also available by calling the church at 734-1976 from 9-11 a.m.

Lobster rolls, tuna, ham and egg salad sandwiches, clam chowder and another soup will be available each week along with pies, bottled water, soda, and coffee or tea.



CLUES ACROSS

- Boring routine
- Back talk
- Emerald Isle
- Snow leopard
- 1/20 of an ancient shekel
- Language of Apia
- Relating to NH2
- British Air Aces
- Woman (French)
- Cheese skins
- Deafening noise
- Cheeky talk
- Early photograph
- Basics
- 007's Flemming
- Photograph (slang)
- Male sheep

CLUES DOWN

- Respect
- Azotemia
- Exhausting
- Accumulation
- Lack of moral standards in a society
- Rascal
- X100 = 1 tala
- River of Haikou, China
- Lout
- Stockings
- Capital of Chile
- Spanish for river
- 12th month (abbr.)
- Homegrown
- Goalkeeper
- Island, U.S. State
- Neptune's closest satellite
- Written acknowledgement (abbr.)
- O'Neill play "The Cometh"
- Far East nursemaid
- Food grain
- 2 stripe rank (abbr.)
- Sweet potato
- God of fields

Answers on page 8

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Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote "free" events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Friday, Feb. 28

THE TURKISH CULTURAL CENTER OF WESTERN MASS. will hold a "Turkish Coffee Night" at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., at 6 p.m. There will be a short video presentation on Turkey followed by a Turkish dance demonstration, snacks and music. The public is invited. The event is free and registration is not necessary.

Saturday, March 1

THE HOLYOKE MERRY-GO-ROUND is open and ready for families to stop in and beat the winter blues. It is currently open Saturdays and Sundays from noon-4 p.m. with rides only \$2 each. Call (413) 538-9838 or visit www.holyokemerrygoround.org for more information.

Sunday, March 2

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS will host a "mini tour" at 1 p.m., led by Bobby Girard, Wood Museum of Springfield History, highlighting "Mr. Barney: the Man Who Put American on Ice-Skates!" The tour is free with museum admission and secure, free onsite parking is available.

A CARD & COLLECTIBLE SHOW will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Chicopee Boys and Girls Club, 580 Meadow St. Admission is \$1; kids under 10 are free. There will be over 40 tables, a door prize drawing every 30 minutes, and the club is handicap accessible. For more information, call (413) 593-6046.

Tuesday, March 4

THE AGAWAM KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS will host a blood drive for Mercy Medical Center's blood bank from 2-6 p.m. at St. John's Church, 833 Main St., Agawam. For more information, call 786-3091.

AGAWAM NATIVE KATE ANDERSON, author of "Hidden Histories~Behind the Walls Vol. II," will visit the Agawam Public Library as part of the 'AuthorTalk' series, at 7 p.m. To register, call the library at 789-1550 ext. 4 or visit www.agawamlibrary.org. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

ADULT DROP-IN YOGA is offered at the Agawam Public Library at 7 p.m. It is a beginner's class and open to adults 18 and over. Bring a yoga mat or blanket. No registration needed.

THE AGAWAM SENIOR CENTER will host a free movie ("Won't Back Down") at 12:30 p.m. The public is welcome.

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library. No registration needed.

Wednesday, March 5

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will hold a blood drive from 2-7 p.m. at The Ice Cream Shop, 459 Springfield St., Agawam. To make an appointment to donate blood, call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org.

Thursday, March 6

THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAMILY PLAYGROUP, which takes place at the church at 745 Main St., Agawam, is open to children birth through age 5 with a parent or caregiver, meets weekly on Thursdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. It includes crafts, stories, songs, free play and more. For more information, call 786-7111 or email jbrownacc@verizon.net.

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "Unlaunched Voices: An Evening with Walt Whitman" featuring poetry and readings of actual letters by actor Stephen Collins, at 12:15 in the Museum of Fine Arts at 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call (413) 263-6800, ext. 488.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING

THE 10TH SEASON OF THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL'S popular Applause Series continues Friday, March 7 with "The Life, Times, and Music of Louie Armstrong" at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center. Members of Dixieland Stomp David Neill, Jason Bouchard, David Bilodeau, Ben Falkoff, Ed Mari, and Gene Bartley. This and all Applause Series events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.agawamcc.org.

ALICE PLOUCHARD STELZER, author of "Female Adventurers," will visit the Agawam Public Library Saturday, March 8 at 2 p.m. The public is invited to take part in celebrating Women's History Month with Stelzer as she reads from and discusses her book. To register, call the library at 789-1550 ext. 4 or visit www.agawamlibrary.org. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

THE WEST SPRINGFIELD COIN

CLUB will meet Sunday, March 9 at 7 p.m. in the Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Elm St., West Springfield. The meeting will include a discussion on a featured topic, business matters and special events. A small auction will take place and refreshments will be available. Guests welcome. For more information, call Peter Setian at 596-9871.

SHAKESPEARE & CO., OUT OF LENOX returns to Agawam High School once again, courtesy of the Agawam Cultural Council, to perform an edited version of "Romeo and Juliet," Tuesday, March 11 at 10 a.m., with doors open to the public at 9:30 a.m. For reservations, which are required, or more information, contact Andrea LaPlace, chairperson of the "Agawam Cultural Council in the Schools" program, at (413) 786-6753 or andrealaplace@comcast.net. It is free and open to the public.

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper Wednesday, March 12 at a cost of \$7 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will hold a blood drive Saturday, March 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. To make an appointment to donate blood, call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org.

THE TUESDAY MORNING MUSIC CONCERT to be held March 18 at 10:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield will feature guest artists David McFerrin on baritone and Clifton J. Noble, Jr. on piano. Free refreshments provided. For more information, contact Yolanda Martin, 25 Valentine St., Springfield or John Karalekas, TMMC president, Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Summer Ave., Springfield 01138.

COMING TO WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS MARCH 1

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SNOWBALL FIGHT



Brandon Smith, 13, (left), and Kyle Reed, 12, engage in a friendly snow day snowball fight.

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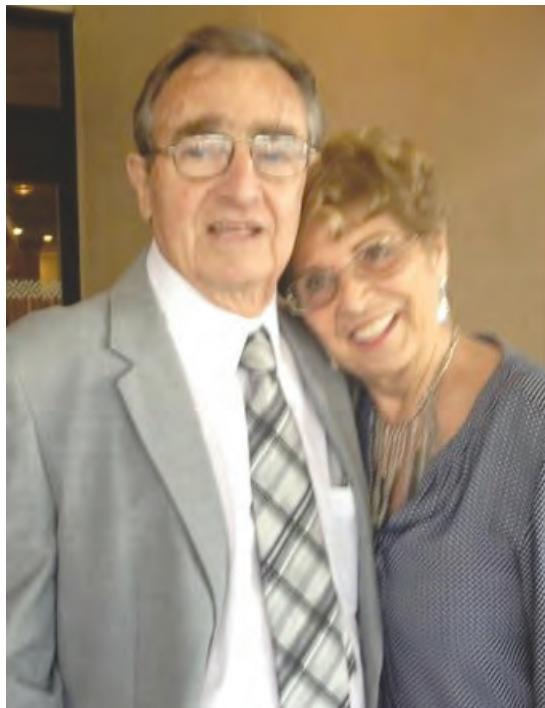
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PALAZZIS CELEBRATE 60TH ANNIVERSARY



Richard and Rose Palazzi

Richard (Sonny) and Rose Palazzi, of Agawam, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary recently with family and friends at their daughter, Diane's, home following a Mass at St. John's Church. The couple was married Feb. 13, 1954, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Springfield.

They are the parents of Nancy Cilimberg, Steven Palazzi and Diane Eggleston, of Agawam, and Michael Palazzi, of Longmeadow. They have nine grandchildren.

Richard served in the United States Navy and retired from his own painting and decorating business of 40 years. Rose worked for St. Ann's Church in West Springfield as a secretary and retired from the accounting department at Agawam Town Hall.



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